

NEWS RELEASE

April 9, 2008

For immediate release

For more information, contact:
Debra Pate, (501) 526-2244

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE HONORS ARKANSAS' DR. JOE THOMPSON WITH 2008 HEALTH CARE QUALITY AWARD

WASHINGTON – Joseph W. Thompson, MD, MPH, was presented with the 2008 Health Care Quality Award by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), during a dinner ceremony in Washington DC on April 1. Dr. Thompson is director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas.

Other award recipients were Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and King County (Wash.) Executive Ron Sims.

“The willingness to take risks is the difference between leadership and stewardship,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane. “Our four award recipients are being recognized for having the courage to turn their bold vision into action. That’s what we need to bring real reform to our health care system.”

Each year, NCQA presents Health Quality Awards to individuals and organizations that highlight the need for—and drive—health care improvement. Past recipients include former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and actress and advocate Mary Tyler Moore.

Dr. Thompson was recognized as one of the nation’s leading advocates for prevention and healthy lifestyles. Specific accomplishments recognized during the ceremony include his leadership role as primary architect of the landmark Tobacco Settlement Act of 2000 and successful efforts to combat childhood obesity whose centerpiece involves measuring the body mass index of every Arkansas public school student and sending the results home.

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ACHI is a nonpartisan, independent, health policy center that serves as a catalyst to improve the health of Arkansans.



1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 300, Victory Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
www.achi.net